

Ortiz and Fernando Fecundo will be honored and memorialized in a tree planting ceremony at the Migrant Head Start Center in Omer, Michigan.

In Michigan's Fifth District we are fortunate, not only to have a Migrant Head Start Center, but also to have staff workers that are dedicated to the success and well being of those who use their services. Though Francisca, Aida and Fernando have all passed away, their hard work and devotion to helping the migrant community remains as an example to us all.

Each one of the individuals being honored this Sunday has contributed to the success of the center in various ways. Fernando, who moved to Bay City with his family in 1961, gave special time and attention to the migrant farm worker population in the region. Francisca, who also worked as a counselor at Bay City Public High Schools, focused on helping workers with education and health services. And Aida, a former state education coordinator, was involved in infant/toddler classrooms and staff training. Both Aida and Fernando not only taught and helped others advance their education, but they also modeled this aspiration by continuing to work toward college degrees.

At a time of unprecedented prosperity and success in our country, the disadvantaged sometimes get left behind. I am proud to say, Mr. Speaker, that because of people like Aida, Fernando and Francisca, the migrant community in Arenac County is not being left behind. These three people contributed their lives to the Migrant Head Start Center and to those in need who came there for help.

I urge my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to these three outstanding individuals who play critical roles in the well being of migrant farm workers in Michigan's Fifth District. They will be missed, but their legacy will remain.

#### INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION TO BENEFIT ZUNI AND ACOMA NATIVE AMERICANS

#### HON. JOE SKEEN

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 22, 2000*

Mr. SKEEN. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing two bills to provide further assistance to Native Americans in my state of New Mexico. The legislation is simple and corrects deficiencies in current laws and regulations that apply to these two Pueblos. The two bills will further the case for self-sufficiency and for tribal self determination for our New Mexico Native Americans.

The Acoma Pueblo comprises some 380,000 acres located 56 miles of Albuquerque. The first bill deals with the subsurface mineral rights of Acoma Pueblo trust lands. The Acoma Pueblo, like many Native American tribes, has sought to restore its reservation to its historic boundaries. Over 6,000 Pueblo members live on and around the Acoma Mesa which was originally referred to as the "Sky City". It is thought to be one of the oldest continually inhabited sites in the

United States, first report by Fray Marcos de Niza in 1539 and then visited by Francisco de Coronado's army in 1540.

In 1988, the Pueblo purchased a large ranch that adjoined their reservation and subsequently the Secretary of the Interior took over 100,000 surface acres into trust and it became a permanent part of the reservation. This additional land is necessary as the Pueblo grows and prospers because of new economic activity.

When they purchased the ranch the subsurface mineral rights were not part of land transfer. This is not an uncommon occurrence in the West where only the surface estate is sold from owner to owner. Much of this practice goes back to the settling of the West when the federal government awarded checkerboard pieces of land to railroads in return for their building lines across the nation. The railroads then sold the land off to finance their companies activities but kept the subsurface mineral estate.

Under this legislation, the current owner of the subsurface estate would enter into an exchange agreement with the Bureau of Land management for equal valued federal lands and rights. In return the BLM would receive the subsurface rights which would be placed into trust by the Secretary of the Interior for the benefit of the Acoma Pueblo unifying both the surface and subsurface estate.

This legislation amounts to a win-win for all of the stakeholders involved. First, the Acoma Pueblo does not have to worry about the subsurface mineral rights holder attempting to exercise its rights. This legislation gives them the total control over their lands that they need and deserve under the trust responsibility of the United States. The current third party owner of the subsurface mineral estate is made whole without having to exercise their rights and being placed in a conflict with the Acoma Pueblo. And finally the public wins because federal lands will go into the private sector and back on the tax rolls. I hope the Congress will act quickly on this important legislation.

The second bill amounts to a technical change in previous legislation passed during the 101st Congress. The Zuni Land Conservation Act of 1990 (Public Law 101-486) was signed into law on October 31, 1990. It was passed as part of efforts to settle a lands claim case that had kept land ownership issues in limbo for years in western New Mexico. Basically the bill settled compensation issues for lands taken without authority that were before the Court of Claims.

The Zuni Pueblo, with a reservation population estimated at over 9,000, is comprised of over 460,000 acres of land located on the western border of New Mexico almost due west of Albuquerque. Sheep production is the top agriculture activity on the reservation. Crafts produced on the reservation are known worldwide, especially their famous jewelry, fetishes, pottery, paintings and beadwork. Most of the tribal businesses are centered around the arts and crafts industry.

The legislation authorized a payment of \$25 million into a Zuni Indian Resource Development Trust Fund. The Trustee of the fund was the Secretary of the Interior. Expenditures from the fund were limited both in the amount

and also what the money could be spent for. The money, including the interest on investments, was to be used to carry out a resource development plan put together by the Tribe and by the Secretary of the Interior. Some of the money was used to purchase additional land for the reservation. The legislation I introduce today will allow the Zuni's to invest their funds rather than having the BIA do it. Provisions dealing with what the funds can be used for will remain unchanged. I hope the Congress will move quickly on this legislation also.

Both bills are relatively non-controversial. Both will lead to greater self governance by the respective pueblos and I would hope that the Clinton Administration will support these efforts to assist Native Americans in controlling their own future.

#### HONORING THE LATE CHARLES "CHARLIE" ISAMI TANIMURA

#### HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 22, 2000*

Mr. FARR of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise on this occasion to honor Mr. Charles "Charlie" Isami Tanimura who contributed not only to the city of Salinas, but also in the agricultural community as co-founder of Tanimura & Antle, one of the nation's largest independent produce growers. Charles Tanimura will be remembered greatly for his spirit of true innovation. On February 27, 2000, Mr. Charles Tanimura passed away at the age of 83.

Mr. Tanimura was born December 15, 1916 in San Juan Bautista, where his father had settled from Japan. One of 12 brothers and sisters, Charles saw farming as the family livelihood and later took on the farming operation with four of his brothers in the 1930's. As World War II began, many of the Tanimura family members found themselves being sent to internment camps. However, Charles had enlisted in the Army prior to the bombing. During the family's internment, the Tanimuras lost the leases on the land they were farming, however shortly after they were able to rebuild their operation to include thousands of prime agricultural acres.

Friends described Tanimura as an, "unsuspecting individual who preferred to stay out of the limelight". Known as a member of the Japanese-American Citizens League, Tanimura will be remembered as generous in helping with the Buddhist Temple's annual festival in July.

As noted by many individuals in the community, "Just to be a Tanimura is to be famous." To be a Tanimura is to have left a valued contribution on society. Charles Tanimura exemplifies the spirit of resilience in his fight to persevere in the face of great obstacles. Mr. Speaker, it is with these words that I ask you and our colleagues to join me in honoring this example of a man. Mr. Charles Tanimura is survived by his loving wife, Fumiko; his three children, Gary Tanimura, Keith Tanimura and Bonnie Yokomata; his four brothers, George, John, Tom and Robert Tanimura; three sisters, Alice Sato, Betty Furushko and Rose Yuki; two grandchildren and numerous nieces and nephews.